Vacuum

Objective:	To remove oil pooled on a shoreline substrate or subtidal sediments.
Description:	A vacuum unit is attached via a flexible hose to a suction head that recovers free oil. The equipment can range from small, portable units that fill individual 55-gallon drums to large supersuckers that are truck- or vessel-mounted and can generate enough suction to lift large rocks. Removal rates from substrates can be extremely slow.
Applicable Habitat Types:	Any accessible habitat type. May be mounted on vessels for water-based operations, on trucks driven to the recovery area, or hand-carried to remote sites.
When to Use:	When oil is stranded on the substrate, pooled against a shoreline, concentrated in trenches, or trapped in vegetation. Usually requires shoreline access points.
Biological Constraints:	Special restrictions should be established for areas where foot traffic and equipment operation may be damaging, such as soft substrates. Operations in wetlands must be very closely monitored, and a site-specific list of procedures and restrictions developed to prevent damage to vegetation.
Environmental Effects:	Minimal, if foot and vehicular traffic are controlled and minimal substrate is damaged or removed.
Waste Generation:	Collected oil and or oil/water mix will need to be stored temporarily before recycling or disposal. Oil may be recyclable; if not, it will require disposal in accordance with local regulations. Large amounts of water are often recovered, requiring separation and treatment.